Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 00045 052116Z ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 COME-00 L-01 HA-02 NSCE-00 SS-07 AID-01 /025 W

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O P 052050Z JAN 78 FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6535 INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (DRINAN, CONGRESSMAN FATHER ROBERT), ES

SUBJ: CODEL DRINAN -- SECURITY ASPECTS OF FATHER DRINAN'S VISIT

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0014

- 1. PARA 6 REFTEL IDENTIFIED SECURITY PROBLEM ATTACHING TO FATHER DRINAN'S PLANNED TRIP INTO SENSITIVE RURAL AREAS FOR ON-SITE TALKS WITH PEASANT GROUPS ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS.
- 2. JOHN MCAWARD, WHO PROFESSES TO SPEAK FOR FATHER DRINAN, ASKS EMBASSY NOT TO ALERT GOES SECURITY FORCES TO FACT OF PLANNED RURAL TRAVEL. ON BASIS OF DEC 5 TELECON WITH ARA/CEN, WE UNDERSTAND FATHER DRINAN NOW RELUCTANTLY WILLING ACCEPT ONE UNOBTRUSIVE BODYGUARD TO ACCOMPANY HIM INTO COUNTRYSIDE. WE CANNOT REQUEST SUCH BODYGUARD FROM SECURITY FORCES WITHOUT ALERTING THEM TO FACT AND CHARACTER OF FATHER DRINAN'S RURAL TRAVEL -- WHICH MCAWARD SAYS WE SHOULD NOT DO.
- 3. MILITARY MEMBERS OF EMBASSY COUNTRY TEAM WARN ME THAT IT IS HIGHLY INADVISABLE FOR FATHER DRINAN AND COMPANIONS TO GO INTO SENSITIVE RURAL AREAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR TALKS WITH PEASANTS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO SECURITY FORCES.

4. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING AND IN INTEREST OF HIS PERSONAL SAFETY, I RECOMMEND THAT FATHER DRINAN BE ASKED TO AUTHORIZE US TO NOTIFY SECURITY FORCES OF HIS PLANNED RURAL TRAVEL AND SEEK THEIR CONCURRENCE

| THEREIN, OR ALTERNATIVELY | TO CANCEL PLANS | S FOR SUCH |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| TRAVEL. | | |
| DEVINE | | |

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Subject: CODEL DRINAN -- SECURITY ASPECTS OF FATHER DRINAN\'S VISIT

TAGS: OVIP, ES, (DRINAN, ROBERT F)

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